

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1920.

# Women in Every Section Anxious to Vote; Registration Heavy, Organization Strong

Reports From Widely Separated Parts of the Country Show Intense Interest in Campaign Issues, Systematic Plans for Bringing Feminine Voters to the Polls and Special Schools for Instructing New Holders of the Franchise—Solid South Alone Indifferent, Though Enrolment in Louisiana Is Fairly Heavy—Georgia Women Barred by Lack of Enabling Act

**W**HAT are the women going to do in the coming election? Are they going to vote as do their husbands? Will they vote in a greater proportion to those registered than do the men? How are they organized? Are the party lines as definitely defined as in other Presidential years? Do the registration figures thus far completed show that the women's interest in the election is active or merely cursory?

These are only a few of the many questions perplexing politicians of the old school and careful observers of public events. In an effort to get a definite line on the trend of the woman's vote *THE NEW YORK HERALD* recently published an analytical symposium of the figures from the States whose women voted in the Presidential election of 1916. To-day there is presented another careful estimate, this time from *THE NEW YORK HERALD* correspondents in widely scattered parts of the country, not necessarily from old suffrage States.

Each reader will draw his own conclusions from the reports presented, but it will doubtless be agreed that this year will show the women flocking to the polls in numbers totally unexpected by the professional politicians, much as they did in Maine.

## New York

It has been estimated that the number of women entitled to vote in the State of New York is 3,033,373, the number of men 3,199,772. These calculations are based on census figures.

Political leaders calculate that not much more than half the number of persons said to be qualified to vote will register. In other words, something over 3,000,000 will be the total registration when the figures have been compiled, in the opinion of leaders.

The enrolment for this last year (the enrolment figures for the coming year will not be ready before January) was: Republican, 1,291,000; Democratic, 967,000.

This will be the third year that women have voted in New York State. In 1917 the Republicans cast 600,000 votes. In 1918, the first year of women at the polls, the Republican vote was about 1,000,000 in the State. Last year the total Republican vote (the total of the vote on Assemblymen) was 1,156,000. It was estimated that two-thirds as many women voted the Republican ticket as men.

## Being Organized Steadily.

The organization of women has been going on for practically three years in New York State. The Republicans have perfected a wonderfully effective organization. The Democratic women have been beset by dissension, resulting finally in Mrs. John Sherwin Crosby, their leader, going over to the Republican party. Miss Elisabeth Marbury, since September 1, has been working hard to build up an organization along the lines of the Republican, but the time has been too short.

Mrs. Arthur L. Livermore has formed a woman's organization for the Republicans which in all essential features is an exact duplicate of the men's. Each county has its own leader, who has a representative in each election district. All through the State campaign schools have been operated, teaching the women how to work, how to speak and explaining the issues of the campaign.

Every Monday afternoon during the summer the Women's Executive Committee has had a forum at its headquarters, Hotel Vanderbilt, prominent speakers being provided for the women. Every Tuesday afternoon there have been speakers' classes.

A motor corps has been organized, with a chairman in every county, to aid in campaign work and to get out the vote on election day. Tremendous quantities of literature have been distributed to women, some of it prepared by the women's organization. Distinctively women's meetings have been held all over the State. Campaign funds have been collected.

On paper the Democratic woman's organization is much the same as the Republican, based on the election district as the unit, with the county coming next. Each one of the 7,221 districts is expected to raise \$10.

## Miss Sarah S. Butler.

One of the prominent society women active in the political campaign.

The women hope to run their campaign without calling on the men for financial assistance. But the real organization is just in the process of formation and its efficiency is doubtful.

Since September 8 the Democratic women have sent out 1,000,000 pieces of literature to voters of their sex. They have assigned speakers and held meetings and luncheons to prominent members of the party.

As is the case of the Republican women, who have separate headquarters at the Vanderbilt, the Democratic women direct their work from distinctive headquarters in the Waldorf.

## Chicago

**W**OMEN of both the Republican and Democratic parties have taken hold of politics in Illinois as if they had spent years at it, and have organizations which compare favorably with the men's—especially when one considers how long men have monopolized this field.

Official returns of last Tuesday's registration compiled yesterday show that out of the 990,765 persons qualified to vote in Chicago alone 339,361 of them are women.

The Republican women, under the leadership of Mrs. Ernest C. Griffin, their State chairman, have a list of 15,000 women in Illinois, every one of whom is actively at work for the ticket. Every precinct in the State is represented in this army, which was formed early in the summer after an exhaustive survey of the State, and through a poll of women voters.

The Democrats are also organized to cover every Congressional district, every county and every municipality. Mrs. Howard T. Wilson of Virden is the State chairman, but most of her work is done down State, since there is a separate chairman for Cook and Lake counties, which include Chicago and suburbs. The Democrats have 4,000 women actively at work, exclusive of those in the municipalities.

Women's headquarters of both parties are anxiously awaiting the tabulation of the latest registration figures, to learn which registered the most women voters.

## Boston

**W**OMEN of Massachusetts are flocking to registration places as if they believed they alone were to do all the electing this year. Any question as to whether or not women would take an interest in their newly acquired privilege has been completely dispelled from the minds of Massachusetts people.

The Republican women of this State have a perfectly organized machine, and the



MRS. DOUGLAS ROBINSON.  
Speaker in Judge Nathan L. Miller's Campaign.



MRS. GEORGE BASS.  
Chicago suffrage leader.



MISS MABEL CHOATE.  
Daughter of former Ambassador has come out for Cox.



MRS. CALVIN COOLIDGE.  
Wife of the Republican nominee for Vice-President.



HARRIET MAY MILLS.  
Democratic Nominee for Secretary of State of New York.

Democratic party machine for women cannot be compared with it. G. O. P. women have thoroughly organized every city, town, ward, precinct, and even block, in the State; are working night and day for the Republican slate. Hundreds of women who might ordinarily be termed "of the Democratic party," are going to vote the Republican ticket, for they are undeniably against any League of Nations idea.

Last minute rushes in cities to get names on the registration lists brought out a large number of women, and when registration closed in Boston there were 10,000 disappointed ones. In Boston a delegation of women who were waiting to sign the lists when the offices closed have lodged formal protest with a threat of legal action because they are denied the vote through not being registered.

The following table shows how the women of the State have registered in the cities with the men:

Place.	Men.	Women.
Boston	129,680	68,776
Beverly	5,075	3,319
Cambridge	78,625	15,934
Chelsea	6,045	2,913
Everett	6,000	3,000
Haverhill	10,229	6,204
Lawrence	14,000	7,400
Lynn	18,700	18,000
Lowell	18,067	11,950
Medford	9,500	4,500
Newburyport	3,662	2,405
Newton	9,000	7,100
Quincy	4,460	3,390
Salem	9,500	5,300
Somerville	77,637	9,392
Worcester	31,152	5,964
		21,863

## Philadelphia

**T**HE women of Philadelphia are apathetic toward the outcome of the approaching Presidential election, and this condition apparently holds true throughout the State of Pennsylvania despite the showing made on registration day, when 2,325,408 of them registered, as against 2,539,026 men.

Political leaders are inclined to the belief that a vast number of them registered merely for the novelty and will pay no more attention to their voting privilege. This belief is based upon the almost utter lack of interest among women in the campaign.

The women held true to Pennsylvania form, the vast majority of them lining up with the Republican party, with the Democratic end almost nil.

Naturally the Republican women are far better organized and what little work is

being done by or in behalf of the feminine voters is being put over by the Republican end.

Women leaders were disappointed at the registration. The only rift in the almost solid Republican ranks is an opposition to Senator Penrose, who is up for reelection. In fact, that seems stronger than their concern about the fight between Harding and Cox, and this opposition is Statewide. Women leaders assert it is an absolute protest against Penrose's reactionary tendencies and his opposition to women's suffrage, but it is not believed it will crystallize with sufficient strength to prevent the senior Senator's reelection.

An added factor, according to the leaders, is that many women will vote the straight Prohibition ticket in the Presidential election.

## Atlanta

**T**HE women of Georgia will not vote in the November election, as they were prevented from registering by strict law, which requires the closing of the registration lists six months before an election. Under this law the lists were closed before the proclamation of the ratification of the Suffrage Amendment, and no enabling act was passed by the Legislature to provide for the registration of the women.

The women, as a rule, do not appear to be distressed by this. As a matter of fact, the great majority of the white women of the State are opposed to equal suffrage. The negro women, however, have shown some desire to vote.

## New Orleans

**I**N New Orleans 25,000 women registered, as compared with 55,000 men. A smaller ratio registered in the country districts, but, the exact figures are not available.

While a considerable anti-Administration and anti-league sentiment exists in southern and urban Louisiana, this will not be appreciably reflected in the vote, which will go as usual by overwhelming majority for the Democratic candidates in a total vote that will hardly be over one-third of the total registration.

Louisiana's local officials are all practically selected in the Democratic primaries, and there is no organized opposition. The Democratic nominee for Senator, who will be elected without opposition, was the progressive candidate for Lieutenant-Governor four years ago, and supported Hughes. The present Democratic Governor was the progressive candidate for Governor four years

## SALIENT POINTS OF THE WOMAN VOTERS' SITUATION.

Latest reports of the importance of the women's vote in the forthcoming Presidential election are incorporated in the accompanying article. They show widespread interest in widely scattered sections of the country, the only indifference being displayed in the hidebound Solid South. There the registration is comparatively small, and in Georgia the women cannot vote, despite the Nineteenth Amendment, because the Legislature failed to pass an enabling act. On page 6 will be found a separate article explaining just why negro women have not registered in other Southern States.

**NEW YORK**—Registration (not fully reported) almost equals that of men. Republican women better organized than Democratic sisters. Motor corps in every county to get out voters.

**BOSTON**—Entire State enthusiastic over heavy registration of women, and those barred by time limit plan legal action to get their votes in.

**PHILADELPHIA**—Vast majority of women lining up with the Republican party. Democratic registration being especially small. Some are expected to vote the Prohibition ticket because of personal objection to Boies Penrose.

**ATLANTA**—Women barred from voting this year because Legislature failed to pass an enabling act. Majority opposed to suffrage anyhow.

**NEW ORLEANS**—Heavy registration in the cities. Anti-administration sentiment strong, but hardly strong enough to cause women voters to bolt the Democratic party.

**DETROIT**—Endless chain system for getting women to register and vote being worked by 12,000 Republican women, each one pledged to get twelve other women. Democratic women interested in the candidacy of Miss Doran for Secretary of State. Non-partisan clubs hold special meetings to hear candidates on both tickets.

**CHICAGO**—Women of both parties fully organized. Registration is heavy. **CINCINNATI**—Unexpected registration surprises old-time politicians. School houses used for political meetings on both sides and straw vote indicates substantial majority for Harding.

**ST. LOUIS**—Women voters rigidly aligned with the old-time parties. Even the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, was forced to elect three co-equal presidents, Republican, Democratic and Independent.

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Registration of sexes not tabulated separately, so no line may be had on the interest of women in the forthcoming election.

the *Enquirer* for some weeks and covering the lower part of Ohio 7,583 voters have been enrolled for Harding and 5,489 for Cox. In this poll 659 women voted for Harding and 455 for Cox.

Considerable interest is being added to the campaign throughout the State by the stand the newly franchised women are taking for both candidates. This is noted principally by the new records that have been established at the polls during registration days and by the many unique features being held by the women in their campaigning. Meetings at which ice cream and cake are dispensed in liberal quantities are being held all over, while the latest feature and one which seems to be playing a big part at all the meetings is the distribution of flowers by two or three young and beautiful girls.

## Detroit

**M**ICHIGAN women are evincing a lively interest in both the national and State campaigns, indicated by the numbers of them who are registering to vote and their attendance at political meetings. Of the 250,000 voters in Detroit, more than 40 per cent, are women.

A great part of the registration on the part of women is attributed to the efforts of leaders among the club women of the State and the various women's political organizations. In Detroit there are several women's political clubs representing both parties. They are all banded together under the head of the Women Voters League and have made a house to house canvass in an effort to get women voters out to register.

The Women's Republican Club and leagues, together with several other organizations of women, are supporting Senator Harding and are working hard for his election. The Republican women have arranged and held more political meetings in Detroit, Saginaw and Grand Rapids than even the regular organizations and committees headed by the men.

The women of the Republican State Central Committee have opened headquarters of their own separate from the men's branch and are conducting their own campaign independently under the leadership of Mrs. Edgar Allen and Miss Bina West.

The women members of the ways and means committee of the State, working under the direction of the national committee, have organized 12,000 throughout the State, each one of whom is pledged to get twelve other women to register and vote.

While greatly outnumbered and not so well organized as their Republican sisters, the Democratic women of Michigan are active in the politics of their party. A new source of interest was added to the campaign for them by the nomination of Catherine Doran for Secretary of State by the Democratic State convention. Miss Doran is the first woman to become a candidate for a State office in Michigan.

The various non-political women's organizations of the State are quite active in things political also. Many of them, being non-partisan, have held special meetings to hear candidates on both tickets.

## St. Louis

**W**OMEN in both parties are taking a most active interest in politics in Missouri. In St. Louis, where all voters were required to register in September, 127,000 women out of 312,000 voters registered.

Glendy B. Arnold, chairman of the Board of Election Commissioners in St. Louis, estimated before registration that 60,000 would be the maximum of women to register. Voters in the rural districts of Missouri are not required to register. Before the State conventions the women demanded representation as delegates and attended the conventions, both as delegates and visitors, where they emphatically demanded equal representation on committees and party councils.

The Democratic women started their political activities earlier than the Republicans, and claim it has given them better recognition than the Republicans. However, that is not conceded. Both parties have given women places on the State committees and executive committees. Each party has an

In the course of a straw poll carried by

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